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ER 87-08334

OCA 87-0808

SUBJECT:

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington D C 20505

OCA#87-0808

The Honorable Quentin N. Burdick  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Our Acting Director, Mr. Gates, has asked me to respond on his behalf to your request for information on Agency activities addressing the environmental problems of the greenhouse effect, global climate change, and stratospheric ozone depletion.

As you are aware, the Central Intelligence Agency has as its primary mission the collection and analysis of foreign intelligence information on topics of priority national security concern as determined by the President, his National Security Council, and the National Foreign Intelligence Board. At the present time, none of the three environmental problems you enumerate is formally incorporated in the collection or analytic objectives of the Intelligence Community and, hence, of our Agency. I would hasten to add that this is not because we regard these phenomena as trivial but rather because they are not particularly susceptible to the Agency's unique capabilities for gathering and processing intelligence data from denied areas and on strategic issues.

Obviously, we take all three phenomena into account in preparing periodic analytic assessments of economic, sociopolitical, and scientific developments in key foreign areas. Recent studies in our Directorate of Intelligence, for example, have addressed the impact of climate and weather change together with other factors on grain production in the Soviet Union and on famine in Africa. These analyses must rely heavily on inputs from scientists in other organizations which are expert on environmental and ecological matters. In addition, whether developing our own technical collection systems or trying to understand the capabilities of other

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countries' air- or space-borne systems, our officers must take these phenomena into account, though typically with the help of outside experts.

Consequently, the Central Intelligence Agency currently has no discrete projects underway to look at the greenhouse effect, climate change, or ozone depletion. Similarly, though we deal with some of these topics in our analysis and planning, the Agency has not specifically budgeted or expended any funds for FY 86 or FY 87 to address these issues directly. We do intend to continue working closely with scientists from the academic community and from other federal agencies like Defense, Interior, Energy, and NOAA to ensure that our analysts and planners are aware of any new findings on the impact of the phenomena in question. Furthermore, our overseas intelligence collectors will also remain on the lookout for any activities by other countries that might harm the climate or the atmosphere.

This letter is also being sent to Ranking Minority Member Stafford.

Sincerely,

/s/

David D. Gries  
Director of Congressional Affairs

OCA/Senate,  (6 Mar 87)

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SUSPENSE		6 Mar 87 <small>Date</small>			

Remarks
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Executive Secretary  
26 Feb '87

Date

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**United States Senate**

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8175

Executive Registry

87-0833x

February 20, 1987

Mr. Robert Gates  
Acting Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20805

Dear Mr. Gates:

By this letter we request the submission of information, not later than March 6, 1987, regarding your agency's activities in addressing the environmental problems of the greenhouse effect, global climate change, and stratospheric ozone depletion.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has held a number of hearings on the greenhouse effect, global climate change, and stratospheric ozone depletion. Testimony given at these hearings has shown that we are already committed to an unprecedented increase in surface temperature over the next few decades, with possible effects including a rise in global sea level, changes in ocean circulation, and changes in precipitation patterns.

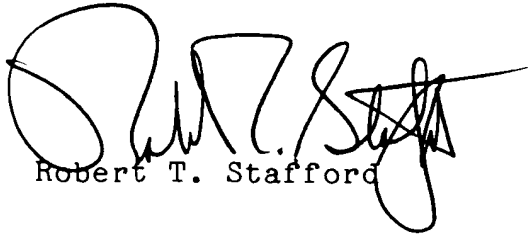
We are deeply concerned by the prospect of such major and unparalleled changes in the composition of the atmosphere, and the implications for global climatic and environmental change. We are requesting information regarding your agency's efforts in these areas to assist us in understanding the existing and anticipated programs already addressing these issues. Specifically we would appreciate your responses to the attached questions.

We have forwarded a copy of this letter to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and have requested that he incorporate these questions and your responses in the record of the budget hearings for FY88.


We look forward to receiving your response no later than March 6, 1987. If you have questions, please feel free to call Kate Kimball, Ron Cooper, Steve Shimberg, or Curtis Moore. They may be reached through the Committee on Environment and Public Works at 224-6176.

Thank you for your support in working with us on these important environmental issues.

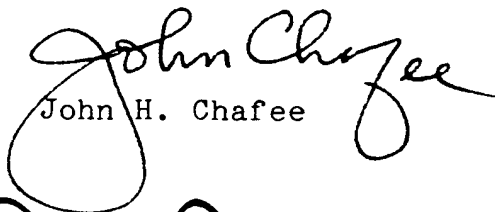
Sincerely,



Robert T. Stafford



Quentin N. Burdick



John H. Chafee



George J. Mitchell



Dave Durenberger



Max Baucus

1. Please describe how (a) the greenhouse effect, (b) climate change, and (c) stratospheric ozone depletion are addressed by your agency and incorporated into long-range planning and project development.
2. Please indicate your current agency priorities and where, among these priorities, the problems of the greenhouse effect, global climate change, and stratospheric ozone depletion appear.
3. The scientific evidence demonstrates that we are already committed to a 2°C increase in global average temperature, and that the effects of global warming may be manifested as early as the next several decades. How have these findings been factored into your planning? How does the magnitude and timing of these changes affect your projects?
4. Please provide a detailed accounting on the following, including a breakdown by specific offices/laboratories and projects for each fiscal year.
  - (A) For the greenhouse effect
    - (1) Expenditures in FY86.
    - (2) Appropriations and expected expenditures in FY87.
    - (3) Budget request in FY88.
  - (B) For climate change
    - (1) Expenditures in FY86.
    - (2) Appropriations and expected expenditures in FY87.
    - (3) Budget request in FY88.
  - (C) For stratospheric ozone depletion
    - (1) Expenditures in FY86.
    - (2) Appropriations and expected expenditures in FY87.
    - (3) Budget request in FY88.
5. Please describe how your agency's efforts are coordinated with those of other federal agencies and the scientific community.